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CHRIST AS A PERSONAL WORKER.

TOPICS AND METHODS

FOR

WORKERS' BIBLE TRAINING CLASSES,

SUGGESTED BY

L. WILBUR MESSER,

General Secretary of the

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

OF CHICAGO.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

This series of Bible Topics was used by the Training Classes at the Northfield and Lake Geneva College Students' Conferences in the Summer of 1891. The pamphlet compiled by Messrs. Ober and Mott, entitled "Personal Work, How Organized and Accomplished," which it is expected every member will secure, fully presents the scheme and method of the Workers' Bible Training Class to be used in connection with the series of lessons as given in this pamphlet. The plan of delegated personal work as outlined on pages 22, 23, should be used in connection with the regular Training Class methods.

CHRIST AS A PERSONAL WORKER.

LESSON I.

IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL WORK.

1. How and where is the importance of personal work taught in the Scriptures?
2. Under what circumstances has Christ set us an example as a Personal Worker?
3. State incidents of personal work by the disciples.
3½. Incidents of personal work in O.T.
4. With what evangelistic agencies is personal work an important factor?
5. State some of the Scriptural incentives to personal work.
6. What is the relation of the Holy Scriptures to personal work?
7. Name some of the qualifications necessary in successful personal work.
8. How may opportunities for such work be secured?

LESSON II.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CLASS.

1. State the object of the Workers' Bible Training Class.
2. What four distinct features are found in the plan of the class?
3. What kind of men should compose the class?
4. What is the three-fold agreement of the members?
5. Of how many members should the class consist?
6. State the nature of the class.
7. Qualifications of the leader.
8. Duties of the Secretary.
9. Length of the class session.
10. How is the time of the class session divided?

NOTE.—In answering these questions, study the pamphlet, "Personal Work, How Organized and Accomplished."

LESSON III.

TREATMENT OF AN ACTUAL CASE.

FIRST.—*Analysis of the case.*

a Why necessary?

b Study characteristics and conditions.

c Classify objections and difficulties.

d Note encouragements and discouragements.

SECOND.—*Prayer.*

a What result will prayer have on the worker?

b What result will prayer have on the person to be interviewed?

THIRD.—*Parallel Scripture case.*

Why will the study of a similar case in Scripture assist the worker?

FOURTH.—*The use of the Scripture.*

a Should objections be answered by argument or experience?

b Why is the use of the Scripture to be encouraged?

c Should many texts be quoted or read to the inquirer?

d Why must great care be exercised in the selection of suitable Scripture texts?

FIFTH.—*Decision.*

a Should this be urged in every case?

b State important helps in bringing a person to decision.

SIXTH.—*Helps to Growth and Service.*

What may be recommended for spiritual development?

LESSON IV.

A TYPICAL MORALIST.

Mark x: 17–27.

Place.

What Province, and near what cities?

Time.

How near the Crucifixion?

Name other events immediately preceding and following.

Characteristics and Condition of the Inquirer.

His age; business; influence; sincerity; earnestness; character; peace of mind; faith in Christ; difficulties.

The Saviour's Method.

Did he rebuke or encourage him?

Was his morality praised or rebuked?

In what manner?

Did Christ humiliate the inquirer?

Did his method indicate thoroughness?

What great privilege was offered?

Results.

Concerning the inquirer; concerning the Saviour; concerning the disciples.

Central Scripture Truth.

Class agree on the strongest spiritual truth in the lesson.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

LESSON V.

INTERVIEW WITH AN ANXIOUS FATHER BURDENED FOR AN AFFLICTED AND HOPELESS SON.

Mark ix: 14–29.

Also locate parallel accounts.

Place.

Locate and describe the place of interview.

Time.

State time in Christ's ministry.

Relation to other prominent events.

Characteristics and Condition of the Persons Interviewed.

a. The Father: His condition; His motives; His request.

b. The Son: His condition; His history.

The Saviour's Method.

By whom and how was this interview opened?

State the experience of the disciples in this case.

Did Christ encourage or rebuke the father?

How was faith tested?

What was the effect of the Saviour's presence on the son?

Why did Christ delay His answer?

How was Divine power manifested?

Why was the boy lifted up?

To what may be attributed the unsuccessful attempts of the disciples?

Results.

Concerning the Father; concerning the Son; concerning the disciples; and as applied to ourselves.

Central Scripture Truth.

To be decided by class.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

LESSON VI.

AN INTERVIEW WITH A CARELESS, INDIFFERENT AND SINFUL PERSON.

John iv: 1–30.

Place.

The city; distance from Jerusalem; Old Testament name.

Time.

In the Saviour's ministry.

Characteristics and Condition of the Person Interviewed.

Nationality; religious belief; character; congeniality; tact.

The Saviour's Method.

Was the interview sought?

Significance of the fact that the disciples were not present.

How was the interview naturally opened?

How was her curiosity and interest awakened?

What brought conviction?

How did the Saviour show patience and tact?

What did He reveal?

What should be the objective point with the worker in every interview?

Was the interview followed up?

Results.

Concerning the woman; concerning the Jews; concerning the Samaritans; concerning the disciples.

Central Scripture Truth.

To be agreed upon by the class.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

LESSON VII.

AN INQUIRER REBUFFED, THOUGH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY HELPLESS.

Mark x : 46-52:

Place.

What section of what city?

Time.

In the Lord's ministry.

Characteristics and Condition of the Inquirer.

Physically; spiritually; socially.

Note how he differed from Saul in his attitude toward Christ?

How was his faith demonstrated?

How was the importance of obedience manifested?

Did he sacrifice anything to obey Christ?

Was he appreciative of the Saviour's help?

The Saviour's Method.

Contrast His attitude to that of the disciples.

Why and how did Christ draw out his desire?

By what means was he brought into the presence of Christ?

What lessons here for Christian workers?

To what was attributed the healing of the supplicant ?

How does this apply to spiritual cleansing ?

Results.

Concerning the inquirer ; concerning the disciples ; concerning Christ ; concerning the multitude.

Central Scripture Truth.

To be determined by the class.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

LESSON VIII.

AN IMPETUOUS, UNRELIABLE, BUT LOVING DISCIPLE.

Last Chapters of the Gospels.

Place.

Note the different places where Christ talked with Peter.

Time.

Locate the time of the interviews.

Characteristics and Condition of the Person Interviewed.

His occupation; natural ability; strong points of his nature; weak points of his nature; his greatest weakness. In what respects was he like many young men of this age?

The Saviour's Method.

Did Peter seek Christ, or did Christ seek Peter to be His disciple?

How did the Saviour warn him against temptation?

When and how did He rebuke him?

How did Christ show that He forgave and trusted him?

Results.

Concerning Peter; concerning the church; concerning the world.

Central Scripture Truth.

To be agreed upon by the class.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

LESSON IX.

AN INTELLIGENT AND INFLUENTIAL INQUIRER.

John iii: 1–13.

Place.

What city?

Time.

Was it near or during an important Jewish feast?

Time in the Saviour's ministry.

Characteristics and Condition of the Inquirer.

Nationality; sect; position; influence; his sincerity.

Why was the interview sought in the night?

To what extent was he a believer in Christ?

What did he lack?

Of what class of modern unbelievers was he a type?

The Saviour's Method.

Why was the Saviour's reply in verse three singularly appropriate?

What did Nicodemus expect?

Notice that the Saviour reiterates an important truth.

What lesson does this suggest to the Christian worker?

What important factor in the presenting of the truth is noticed in verse eight?

How and why was Nicodemus rebuked?

What followed the deepening of conviction?

Results.

Concerning the inquirer; concerning Christ; concerning the disciples.

Central Scripture Truth.

To be agreed upon by the class.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

LESSON X.

INTERVIEW WITH AN INFLUENTIAL, PREJUDICED, BUT SINCERE UNBELIEVER.

Acts 9 : 1–22.

Place.

Name the city; its importance; distance from Jerusalem; character of the population.

Time.

Relation to the ascension of Christ.

Characteristics and Condition of the Person Interviewed.

His nationality; motives; influence; education; how acquired? attitude towards Christianity and its adherents; bodily presence; was he troubled in spirit?

The Saviour's Method.

Had He previous to this time been striving with Saul?

Name the features of this special call.

Note significance of latter clause of verse five.

How was his obedience tested?

How was his faith tried?

How was his humility shown?

What important feature in God's plan of conversion is illustrated by Ananias?

Was Saul given assurance; if so, how?

State two important elements in Christian growth which are immediately provided.

Results.

Concerning Saul; concerning the disciples; concerning the world.

Central Scripture Truth.

To be decided by the class.

Key Text.

To be located and memorized.

DELEGATED PERSONAL WORK.

WHAT IS IT?

A plan whereby the members of Workers' Bible Training Classes are delegated by the leader to interview and follow up young men until satisfactory reports are presented as to results obtained.

WHY IMPORTANT?

Because most Christians fail to recognize opportunities for personal work.

Because much of the work done is superficial and unsatisfactory.

Because through natural diffidence many young Christians are prevented from beginning personal work.

Because in business and in many other departments of Christian work, it is necessary to delegate important business to others who shall be responsible for its performance.

Because young men partially interested in the Association, or introduced by friends, need a thorough and systematic effort in their behalf.

Because we have scriptural illustrations of its necessity, namely:

The Saviour was *sent* by the Father to redeem the world.

Philip was *delegated* to deal with the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Peter was *delegated* to preach to Cornelius.

Ananias was *delegated* to minister to Saul?

HOW ORGANIZED?

Each member of the class should make his report of personal work accomplished each week, on blanks prepared like the form below.

When the secretary of the class calls the roll, each member will read the brief report of personal work as written on the blank.

Each case assigned is to be followed up until the class or leader decides that thorough work has been performed.

From these reports a typical case will be chosen for study each week.

The leader and secretary should see that each member is doing actual personal work each week.

If a member of the class prefers to select his own case, he should be allowed to do so.

The leader or secretary should keep a record of such persons as in their judgment might be approached by members of the class.

FORM OF PERSONAL WORK BLANK FOR WORKERS' BIBLE TRAINING CLASS.

The following questions refer to some young man selected by, or delegated to, a member of the class. *Report on case is to be made each week, and recorded* by the secretary of the class until satisfactory results are realized.

Name.....

Address .....

Objections and difficulties .....

.....

Characteristics and condition .....

.....

.....

.....

Date registered by class.....

Report on above case.....189.. By....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Reports will be called for by the secretary of the class at each session.

College Series.

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